

# July 2020



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

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<i>Vice President</i>	Everette Lineberger
<i>Secretary</i>	Denie Crowder
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mary Ann Hipp
<i>Past President</i>	Don Crowder

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### ***Gardening & Beautification***

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:  
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

**This month's presentation will be held in the Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair and be prepared for an informative evening.**

# Gardening & Beautification

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## **President's Corner**

This year has not been the best one for many of us. The good news is that we are able to have both our board meeting and the regular meeting this month. SCC has given us permission to meet at the Pavilion for both events, although we may choose to have the regular meeting adjacent to the propagation frames of the container garden.

On a sad note, we lost one of our stalwart members, Don Crowder. Don passed away unexpectedly on June 29. He will be greatly missed in the many circles he traveled including the Men's Garden Club. Don was President in 2003, 2004, 2015, 2018 and 2019. He held other offices and worked hard at the container garden. We worked together on a number of projects, especially irises. In recent years we helped maintain iris beds at Everette Lineberger's and Don helped me plant the Iris Beds at my home. Don was a happy fellow, typically had a smile on his face and loved working outdoors.

The anecdote I heard that describes Don was very telling of his personality. Don was asked why he helped a woman in the neighborhood who was such a difficult lady. Don's answer was "because she needs help". What a great statement! Perhaps we can modify that statement for the Garden Club to say "Plants – Because we need them".

## **June Meeting Highlights**

We had a great restart to our regular meeting program. We had 19 members and one guest come out to Roebuck Wholesale Nursery for a presentation by the owner, Ricky McAbee. Mr. McAbee discussed his business operation and then led us on a tour through a small section of his vast nursery. It was a great evening and a chance to get out and see our fellow members. A special thanks to Mr. McAbee for agreeing to host us. We should have a meeting at the presenter's site at least once a year. Thanks to Beth Waddell for this excellent suggestion.

## **Linda Tiller McHam**

## **SMGC Speaker July 20, 2020**

Linda has been a Club member since 1989. She is a past president of the club. Her career has ranged from graphic design to developing custom garden tours in England. Following in her grandparent's steps, she has been propagating plants for the club since 2007. Each year volunteers help cut and stick hundreds of cuttings (if we are lucky) to grow on for the plant sales. Growing our own plants is part of the mission of the club to educate the community, and it also helps the club by keeping costs low on the plants we sell and raising funds to support our other projects. With a few simple tools and techniques, just about anyone can grow plants. Like the vegetables that we grow in our gardens, growing plants and passing them along is a way to share a love of gardening. Cultivating an appreciation for our surroundings reminds us to be good stewards so that those who come after us will have the opportunity to do likewise.



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## Remembering Don Crowder



We were all shocked to hear that Don Crowder passed away suddenly at his home on Friday, June 26. He had been working in the mountains for a friend as he did on many occasions, and had come home to finish mowing his grass for his wife, Denie. He died doing work that he loved to do and doing it for people he cared about. But, that was typical for Don. He was always willing to volunteer for a project and spent hours making sure that the projects were carried out professionally and with an attitude of joy. I worked with Don for many years on countless numbers of projects, from the National Convention held in Spartanburg in 2006 (we were co-chairs) to moving the club from Hatcher Garden in 2009, to building a shed for the club and developing board manuals and spread sheets to help manage the club... we spent hours trying to do what we could to improve all aspects of club activities. He never failed to volunteer to help me with propagation. He repaired the water lines and sprayed the weeds, directed traffic at the plant sales (except for dates when Clemson was at home) as well as helped to install the large shade structures at the nursery. Wherever Don went, there was going to be fun. His death has left a large hole in his family's hearts, his friends lives - mine in particular - and the many communities of people who knew him. I am thankful that he was part of my life for so many years, and I look forward to seeing him again when that time comes. Please join me in keeping Denie, their children and family members in your prayers.

- Linda McHam

Photo taken by Don Davidson

As no doubt all of us already know, long time member and twice president of the Men's Garden Club, Don Crowder, died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, June 26, 2020. After working all day at a home on Lake Lure helping a client beautify his property, Don was doing another of his favorite things when he died, cutting his manicured lawn.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at Spartanburg First Baptist Church on July 2. It was a wonderful tribute of remembrances and recognition of Don's relationships with family and friends. Those of us who were there were reminded to think about the uncertainty of human life.

I first met Don at a M.G.C. meeting. At that time, he was working at Lockwood-Green Engineering Firm as a civil engineer. When he became president of the M.G.C. and was assigned to work out of town in Louisiana and Missouri, I was impressed that he always fulfilled his duty as President by presiding at club meetings on the third Monday of each month and then driving all night to be "on the job" the following day.

When I was physically unable to do the work which needed to be done at my home and garden, Don became a volunteer to help me do whatever needed to be done, whether it was cutting down a tree, working on machinery, or maintaining the garden and farm.

Later, when I regained my strength, he became a co-laborer and life-long friend when we worked together as officers of the M.G.C. I'm certain my relationship with Don was not exceptional. I am only one person who was touched by his love for beautifying God's green earth and volunteering to help anyone in need. More than once I have heard persons say, "Don will do anything he can for you". Don packed a "lot of living" into a "too short" life. Another reminder that we too should consider the quality of life more important than the length of the days between our birth and our death. Don was born on December 29, 1950 and was 69 when he died. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by Everette Lineberger



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**DirtDaubers.org**

*Founded in 1948 as the "Dirt Daubers" the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club welcomes men, women and corporate members with an interest in nature.*

*As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.*



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**Photography by Linda McHam**



Althea - solid white form from Joe Maple



## 2020 Litter pickup schedule

**Sept. 12** rain date **Sept 19**

**Dec. 12** rain date **Dec 19**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)



Buddleia 'bicolor' selected by Michael Dirr



Hydrangea macrophylla 'Lady in Red' developed by Michael Dirr

**Renew Now  
 2020 Membership**  
 Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5  
 Corporate \$100

Forms are located at **DirtDaubers.org/Membership** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

## Future Programs

**August 17** – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.

**September 21** – Annual Picnic at Spartanburg Community College Pavilion for members and guests.



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### Member Musing By Phil Abers

A visit to Quebec, Canada should include a stop in Montreal. The City has a large Botanical Garden that contains 10 greenhouses that are open year round. Theme gardens within the Botanical Garden include;

- Chinese garden
- Japanese garden
- Shade garden
- Water garden
- Lily garden
- Rose garden
- Arboretum
- First Nations garden

The “*Jardin Botanique de Montréal*” is a lovely place within the city. The garden has almost 200 different bird species and approximately 22,000 types of plants, flowers, and trees. The Montreal Botanical Garden is more than a summer tourist destination, it's a retreat for locals needing a to get away from stressful big city life. One of the annual events is the [Gardens of Light](#). This festival is also called the Chinese Moon Festival, which happens during the harvest season of September/October.

Edie and I stumbled upon the Gardens of Light by chance, but only had time to see it in the daylight. Montreal's Gardens of Light lanterns are strikingly similar to typical Chinese Moon Festival lanterns, because they are one and the same. The lanterns are constructed in Shanghai based on the theme and designs of Montreal Botanical Garden artistic designer My Quynh Duong. Then they are shipped to Canada and assembled. Anywhere from 900 to 1,000 lanterns are displayed on garden grounds. More recently the Japanese Garden although not having lanterns, does use multicolored lights that bring a darkened garden to life. The First Nations Garden is also lit during the festival.

Also located at the Botanical Garden site is the Montreal Insectarium. It has the largest insect collection in North American. There are many colorful, striking insects. Before deciding the insects are to be avoided, remember that many plants would not survive without them. Next time you wish to practice your French, plan a trip to Montreal and their Botanical Garden.



**History of the club continues on the following pages.**

## Chapter 5

### **“But the Trees Remained...!”: TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY**

*Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone  
planted a tree a long time ago.*

*- Warren Buffet*

**S**partanburg is known in the upstate and throughout South Carolina as a “city of trees.” While this community has been blessed with an environment that supports many varieties of trees, the efforts of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club have gone a long way toward increasing the number and quality of trees in both the City and County. From encouraging neighborhoods to plant trees (the Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association promoted tree planting and worked with the SMGC in one of its earliest tree sales which was reported in *Southern Living* in September, 1982, and in encouraging the Converse Heights’ second-generation tree planting in 2004), to treescaping of many major thoroughfares in the area, to sponsoring tree sales twice a year to encourage homeowners to plant trees, and in setting an example for other organizations and institutions by actually planning and planting thousands of street and highway trees in the area, the SMGC has been a leader in providing *green* shade for the coming generations.

Planting of street and highway trees seems to have begun in the 1970s, while Mr. W. O. Ezell was extremely active in developing many beautiful garden spots around Spartanburg. Although *color* was his emphasis in the dozens of gardens he and the Club planted and maintained around the city, he did also plant a few trees.

MGC Treescape Projects	
1976	— N. Pine
1978	
1980	
1982	
1984	
1986	— N. Pine
1988	— W. Main @ I-26
1990	— E. Main
	— N. Pine @ Beaumont
1992	
1994	Heron Traffic Circle
	I-85 Bypass (Relocation)
	N. Pine Extension
1996	S. Pine
	Drayton Rd / Isom
1998	US -176 @ I-26
	Drayton Rd / Isom
2000	N. Pine Extension
	Drayton Rd / Isom
2002	Drayton Rd / Isom
	SC-195
2004	S. Pine
	US-221 Phase I
2006	US-221 Phase II
	I-85 Business
2008	

Harold Hatcher, as a new member of the Club, began an emphasis on trees in 1972 and led the club in planting hundreds of trees in local parks, around schools, public buildings, etc, and he was active in the Club’s Bicentennial project on North Pine Street. The Club’s real emphasis on community tree planting probably began one year in the ‘80s when Hatcher reported at a Club meeting on a recent trip back to his former home in Indiana where he had been active in community beautification. That night, he said, with obvious sadness, that all the garden spots of flowers, shrubs and grasses which he had been involved in planting had been neglected and no longer existed (this is exactly what happened here when Mr. W. O. was no longer able to maintain the many garden spots he developed with the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club in the 1960s and ‘70s). But then, with a smile on his face, Hatcher stood tall, lifted his arms and continued with great enthusiasm, *“but the trees remained...!”*

While trees aren’t forever and aren’t without some problems and aren’t maintenance free, they are relatively low maintenance and many

are long lived—and are very important to both the landscape aesthetics and the environment. While Hatcher had been active in the early 1970s in leading the Club in planting many trees in public areas of the community, it was his Indiana observation that set the tone for the Club’s street and highway treescaping. The Club picked up on Hatcher’s observation and began a treescape program that continues today.

The 15 major treescape projects of the Men’s Garden Club are detailed in the following sections of this chapter. Related treescape project information is presented in the Appendix.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The “MGC Tree Planting Procedure” folder is in Appendix 6. The City Map of MGC planted trees is in Appendix 31, and the Master Street Tree Planting List is in Appendix 32.